ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 68. October, 1995.

THE NEW YEAR BECKONS.

Time really does fly. It's more than an adage and, to our way of thinking, certainly true. Much is happening these days with ISASC, and the observations below will keep you up to date. And before we forget, we hope that each and everyone of you enters the New Year on an optimistic note that bodes well for good health and good times in 1996.

NEW ORLEANS IS THE VENUE...

for our 18th Convention, and plans to make our first visit to this popular city are proceeding nicely. The dates are Thursday, May 30, to Sunday, June 2, and we urge you to note them now on your 1996 calendar (run out and buy one if need be). Our headquarters hotel is the famed Monteleone in the popular French Quarter, and the convention social agenda calls for our taking in much of the gaiety that New Orleans lays claim to, along with Cajun/Creole dining that has delighted epicures for years. Our metrology agenda calls for some innovations, in some cases introduced by our program chairman, Joe Lenorovitz, who will be in charge of our various scale-related functions. Among the new, expanded, and/or improved events you can anticipate are a panel presentation titled "Ask the Experts;" several slide shows given by selected members on "My Favorite Scales;" an extended Silent Auction, with Bill Doniger (one of the big Sellers)

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serving as Chairman of an Auction Committee responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly; a longer and more structured Business Meeting with a printed agenda, director/officer reports, and an opportunity for members to "speak their piece." And that's just some of what you can expect. The first official convention mailing will tell you more when you receive it in mid-January, and meanwhile, feast your eyes and whet your appetite on the literature enclosed.

JERRY KATZ TO THE FORE.

Some of you may know, but others probably not, that for a good number of years Jerry Katz has selflessly handled one of ISASC's most important functions, namely, replying to the several hundred inquiries we receive each year from non-members seeking information about scales they own. Some of these are so "off the wall" as to drive one out of one's mind, but Jerry gamely answers them all and occasionally someone responds with a sign of appreciation for this valuable (and, most likely, unique) service. Several thank you's (shortened in the interest of space) read as follows:

> "Thank you for your time and effort to do some research on my (micrometer) scale, and your estimate of its value. It is much appreciated;" "Thank you for the price range on my Dayton Scales, which is very helpful to me as I'm planning to sell the scales;" "Many thanks for your prompt and informative analysis of the value of my wife's Fairbank's scales. This service by you and ISASC is most generous and most helpful."

That's the kind of thing Jerry's been doing for some time now, as well as providing us with some behind-the-scenes convention services, and we feel that his contribution to the well-being of ISASC should be duly recognized. To that end, he's being nominated to serve as an ISASC Vice President, and all we're asking of each of you is to cast your vote on the enclosed ballot and return it to us promptly. It involves two minutes of your time and 32¢ postage, and we're suggesting it's the least each of us can do to show our appreciation.

Jerry's two-year term will start January 1, 1996, and his officer function will be designated as "Public Liaison & Convention Services" (which he's been providing all along). Thank you for your vote.

WE'RE OFF TO ENGLAND.

'We" being Bob and Margie Stein. It's been almost two (or is it almost three?) years since we've been to our favorite overseas destination, and we'll be there from October 13 to 22, visiting with friends in London, Shropshire, and Surrey, shopping Portabello and other antique marts in our eternal quest for postal scales we don't have (and can afford), taking up some business matters with the Euro-Chapter hierarchy, and, most importantly, attending the Euro-Chapter convention on October 15 in Birmingham, including a visit to the Avery Scale Museum. All reports tell us that each of the Euro-Chapter's semi-annual conventions is really quite special, and we're eagerly looking forward to this one. To the best of our knowledge, our North American Chapter will be represented by the Steins, Gloria and Ralph Lipfert, Mary Easton and Maggie Van Frank, Jerry Katz, and most likely, several others. In the next issue of this Newsletter, you'll get a detailed report about all that went on.

BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE.

As many of you know who have already bought a copy, this valuable publication has been off press and at our library distribution center in Boston since this past July. (On August 9, Bob Jibben was the first to tell us that it already has been of help to him.) We've sold about 50 to date, and we urge those who have yet to buy one to do so now. It's a must for anyone who considers himself or herself a serious scale collector, and it's a veritable storehouse of information (and only $20, to boot).

Eric and Judy Soslau, after working on it for three years, undertook the additional step of arranging for its copyright, a much-needed protective action, and we owe them a repeated vote of thanks. They,

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in turn, have asked us to express our appreciation to those members who were particularly helpful and "contributed time" to the project, so here they are: Jan Berning, Emil Cohn, Bill Doniger, Dale Goldman, Jerry Katz, Joe Lenorovitz, Lucio Marson, Jan Macho, George Mallis, Shirley Mohr, Dale Reed, Bob Stein, George Anna Wehman, Lew Weiss, and Ruth Willard. Thank you, one and all.

MARKETPLACE.

FOR SALE. A brand new, first-of-its-kind book on "Lollipop Scales," also known as Coin-Op or person scales. More than 200 pages. Author: Dick Bueschel. Distributor: Jan Berning. Limited edition. See enclosed descriptive flyer and order form.

FOR SALE. English letter scale. Equal arm; Roberval principle. All brass except for mahogany base, 10-3/8" x 5-1/4;" height, 5-1/4." Six matched weights (1/2 oz. to 16 oz.) in three receptacles. Signed: Mordan, London. "Excellent condition." $300. Contact Ralph Behm, 1778 Winthrop Road, Highland Park, IL 60035; phone 708/676-9800.

FOR SALE. Nine scales. Various manufacturers: Christian Becker; Wilkens/Anderson; Sargent; Elmer & Amend; Roller/Smith; and others. "Best offer takes all." Contact Milan Dragin, 1162 East 54th Street, Chicago, IL 60615; phone 312/241-6161.

WANTED TO BUY. Porcelain weights and egg scales. Please provide photo(s) and price(s). Contact Eileen Park, 93 Widgee Road, Noranda 6062, Western Australia; telephone or fax: (09) 275-6315.

ARCHIVES OF INTEREST.

This past summer, Eric and Judy Soslau took a holiday in upstate New York, and combined it with a side trip to Burlington, Vermont. While there, they visited Karen Campbell, a reference specialist at the Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont, and there they found a good number of Howe and Fairbanks catalogs, covering not only scalesbut coffee mills, cash drawers, book presses, ice machines, forges, milling equipment and other unusual items. We quote from the Soslau letter: "We definitely would recommend a stop there to anyone traveling in the area."

SCHROEDER'S TO THE FORE.

In our January, '95, Newsletter, we told you about George Mallis working on an improved and expanded scales listing for the 14th Edition of Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide, and now we can report that the job is done. This latest edition now carries a much more definitive and detailed listing of the range of prices one might expect to pay for scales of several kinds, namely analytical, apothecary, assay, coin (by country), counterfeit coin detector, diamond, and postal. It's all on pages 463 to 465, and can be of considerable help, especially to the beginning or novice collector. The 14th edition of Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide consists of 602 pages of antiques and collectibles and sells for $14.95 plus $2.00 shipping and handling. Mail your check to Collector Books, P.O. Box 3009, Paducah, KY 42002-3009, or call toll-free (credit cards accepted) at 1/800-626-5420. Also, you might ask for a free copy of their Fall Catalog of all their publications. And before we forget, let's remember that we owe our thanks to George Mallis for this valuable service to ISASC members.

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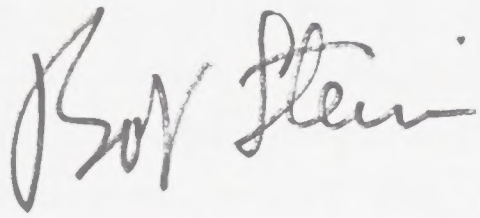
WE NEED A LITTLE HELP.

This past July, the post office notified us of no less than eight or nine EQM mailings that wound up in the dead-letter office and never reached the recipients. In each instance, the member had either moved or was spending the summer elsewhere, and in neither case did the member notify us. Please, if you do move, or if you're away from home for an extended period, let us know and spare us the time it takes to track you down and the cost of sending you a duplicate mailing. For this small consideration, you have our thanks in advance.

SOME FINAL MATTERS.

In the next few weeks you'll receive your dues billing for 1996 and a directory update card. Please pay your dues promptly; it will make life much more tolerable for Jan Macho, our hard-working treasurer. Also, this Fall our annual solicitation for our Benefactor Program will reach you, and we hope we can count on the support you've so generously provided in the past. And lastly, our Society is hale and hearty, what with membership now at 333 and new members regularly joining, as witness the latest supplement enclosed. You'll be hearing from me shortly after we all welcome in the New Year.

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